



Wenatchee Fire & Rescue

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Farm Grant Provides Smoke Detectors to the Community

Wenatchee, WA, March 24, 2008 – Thanks to a grant from State Farm Insurance, Wenatchee Fire and Rescue will distribute and install 300 smoke detectors in the residences of qualified, low income families who do not have proper fire detection devices.

Wenatchee Fire and Rescue will use the \$4,500 grant from State Farm to purchase smoke detectors with 10-year batteries. The smoke detectors will be installed throughout the community by Wenatchee Downtown Kiwanis Club volunteers and off-duty firefighters.

“We are thrilled to offer this valuable service and to be able to partner with State Farm and the Downtown Kiwanis Club,” Wenatchee Fire Marshal Mark Yapple said. “It is simply unimaginable that there are homes today that are not protected by smoke detectors. This is truly a community effort, and will provide many homes with an early warning against fires.”

The detectors and installation service will be provided at no cost to qualified residents living within the city’s jurisdiction. According to Yapple, many fires have occurred in homes where detectors are either not properly working or not installed.

“Smoke detectors save lives, and early detection usually means fire damage is contained to a small area versus much more extensive damage,” Wenatchee State Farm agent and Downtown Kiwanis Club President Ernie Hobbs, said. “Many home fires occur when people are sleeping, so smoke alarms need to be placed in and near bedrooms, so they are loud enough to wake people before smoke and toxic gases can hurt them.”

Smoke alarms should be tested once a month and units should be dusted or vacuumed at least once a year to keep it free of dust and cobwebs. Be sure to install alarms away from air outlet vents to prevent dust build-up.

For additional information, please call Wenatchee Fire and Rescue at 664-3950.

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